

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 ACDE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /099 W
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O 061910Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9616
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T BONN 11219

GENEVA FOR SEABED DEL - SLOSS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: NEW FRG PROPOSALS

1. FONOFF STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR
TODAY THAT THE FRG'S MBFR INITIATIVES, WHICH HAVE
RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY IN BONN, WERE ALL
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY
PRINCIPLES. HE SAID THE FRG WAS CONSIDERING THE IDEA
OF EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS BY BOTH SIDES IN ORDER
TO REACH THE 700,000-MAN COMMON CEILING.

2. THE FONOFF, VAN WELL CONTINUED, HAD PREPARED
VARIOUS PAPERS AND ANALYSES ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
IN MBFR FOLLOWING THE CURRENT DATA DISCUSSION. HE

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INDICATED THAT, IF THERE WERE NO PROGRESS IN MBFR
FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THE DATA DISCUSSION, THEN
THE FRG BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO CONSIDER
FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES.
FINALLY, VAN WELL SAID THE WORK IN THE FONOFF ON
MBFR WAS RELATED TO THE GERMAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL
SCENE.

3. COMMENT: THE IDEA OF EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS TO REACH THE COMMON CEILING HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ON PAST OCCASIONS WITH THE US BY FRG ARMS CONTROL COMMISSIONER RUTH AND FORMER COMMISSIONER ROTH AND IS NOT NEW. THE GERMANS HAVE EVEN GIVEN US A PAPER ON IT. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT FONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED WITH US REACTION TO AN IDEA WHICH, IN THEIR OPINION, PROBABLY WARRANTS FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

AS FOR THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION REFERRED TO BY VAN WELL, READERS WILL RECALL THAT PROMINENT SPD FIGURES SUCH AS BRANDT, WEHNER, EHMKE AND PAWELCZYK HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE IN MBFR SINCE LAST FALL'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN. BY HAVING HIS FONOFF PEOPLE DEVELOP SOME "NEW INITIATIVES", GENSCHER WILL BE ABLE TO ARGUE THAT HE HAS MADE A SINCERE EFFORT TO MEET THEIR CONCERNS AND TO TRY TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS PROTECTING HIS CDU/CSU FLANK BY INSURING THAT THE FRG PROPOSALS REMAIN WELL WITHIN THE ALLIANCE'S PARAMETERS.

WHILE SOME PRESS REPORTS INDICATED GENSCHER PLANNED TO DISCUSS THE "NEW INITIATIVES" WITH THE CHANCELLOR
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SOON, WE NOTE THAT SCHMIDT LEFT FOR CANADA YESTERDAY AND WE DOUBT THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE. NEVERTHELESS, THE CHANCELLOR, OR GENSCHER, MAY WELL ADVANCE SOME OF THESE IDEAS DURING THEIR MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY LATER THIS MONTH.
STOESSEL

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